



BUREAU OF CONFLICT AND STABILIZATION OPERATIONS

Anticipating, Preventing, and Responding to Conflict



STABILIZATION LEADERS FORUM

WHAT IS THE SLF?

The Stabilization Leaders Forum (SLF) is a network of governments with experience leading civilian stabilization responses, which brings together leadership and working-level staff from countries with civilian stabilization organizations similar to the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) in the U.S. Department of State.

As a political activity, stabilization efforts require analysis and understanding of dynamics and players prior to and during interventions. The SLF enhances information sharing and analysis, develops coordination mechanisms, and improves international efforts to prevent and respond to conflict. SLF members meet annually at the Assistant Secretary level to review actions, set priorities, and plan for the upcoming year.



WHO ARE THE SLF MEMBERS?

Member countries are: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

WHAT DOES THE SLF DO?

Support Peace Processes and Prevent Atrocities

The SLF established an Early Warning and Action Working Group to understand if countries are at risk for targeted or escalated conflict, especially violence against civilians. The group looks for ways to prevent, lessen, or end conflicts before atrocities occur.

Partner on Policies and Projects

SLF participants exchange strategies and ideas, partnering on issues and in regions of mutual concern. Members crafted joint recommendation papers on topics such as UN reform, expanded cooperation with the World Bank, and strengthened our collective election violence prevention and analysis skills through member-led training.

Ensure the Safety of Experts in the Field

The Roundtable on Duty of Care in Peace Operations was established as a result of SLF cooperation. The group ensures the process of experts working for governments or international organizations is smooth and maintains standards to ensure personnel safety.

**"Peace is not a noun.
It's not a passive
state of being.
It's a verb.
It's something we do.
It's action we take."**

WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SLF?

SLF members will partner on violence prevention studies, conduct election analysis training, and promote understanding about the benefits of prevention efforts among decision makers. We will highlight stabilization as a political process and cooperate on policies and programs that promote peace, mitigate potential conflict, and ensure stability. In 2018, Australia will host the annual SLF meeting.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE SLF?

CSO and the UK's Stabilisation Unit launched the SLF in 2013. The inaugural gathering generated a framework for member countries to discuss ideas, identify lessons learned, and pinpoint areas of cooperation. Subsequent meetings focused on atrocity prevention, early-warning indicators, election violence, mediation, monitoring and evaluation techniques, research methods, and countering violent extremism.



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